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CURRENT LITERATURE.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Medicinal plants of the Philippines.¹

AS INDICATED in the translator's preface, the book is primarily intended to facilitate the study of the native medicinal plants by the numerous medical officers stationed at small posts throughout the Philippines, but it will also prove of great value to botanists everywhere, and particularly to pharmaceutical botanists. The style of the book is simple and very interesting, with an occasional quaint comment. For example, under tobacco, the author says, "The robust who smoke and drink to excess and meet with an accidental death on a railroad or from an acute disease that overtakes them in the midst of robust health, serve as arguments for the defenders (of the tobacco habit) to prove the innocence of the custom." And again, "The antiseptic power of tobacco is undoubted, but it is intolerable that a physician under the pretext of avoiding self-infection should enter the house of his patient and continue smoking at the bedside." As the author admits, much of the information regarding medicinal properties of plants and plant parts is obtained from the Filipino herb doctors (*curanderos*). The common native names are given. The botanical descriptions are simple and quite brief.

The book is timely, and it will assist American botanists to acquaint themselves with the flora of their new possessions.—ALBERT SCHNEIDER.

Trees in winter.

THE reviewing of so-called popular scientific books is usually unpleasant, because one has so often to say disagreeable things; but in this instance the task is quite the reverse. Miss Huntington's *Studies of trees in winter*² will certainly aid very materially in developing a love for nature study.

The book is unique in that it is a guide for the study of our more common trees in a season which, though popularly supposed unsuitable for a study of plants, is one that, as the book shows, has certain very marked advantages. The absence of foliage brings out much more clearly the tree habit, bark

¹ PARDO DE TAVERA, T. H.—The medicinal plants of the Philippines, translated from the Spanish into English by Jerome B. Thomas, Jr., captain and assistant surgeon, U. S. A. 8vo, pp. 269. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co. 1901. \$2.00.

² ANNIE OAKES HUNTINGTON: *Studies of trees in winter*. 8vo, xviii + 198 pages, 75 full page half-tone illustrations and colored plates and text cuts. Boston: Knight & Millet. 1902. \$2.50.